

11/18/66

Dear Belfrage,

This is not a work night, nor did I write anything but many letters during the day. This always gives me a guilt feeling, for there is still a little left to do on the new book but I'm not in the mood. It is written, typed for offset, the shooting schedule is arranged and the printing and binding are approximately dated. It is going without outside editing. It is the retyped rough draft. But I think it will do. The content permits me no alternative. It is more overwhelming than I indicated, for I have come up with a solution to everything except the names of the trigger fingers. I think parts of it are pretty good, all of the content excellent.

Fortunately there have been no mysterious diseases, although I have learned that I developed and healed a duodenal ulcer without awareness of it. And as yet no obit.

Aside from what public relations can and probably will do, this dates everyone else's work. It names those who did the whitewashing, shows how they did it, who helped, who could have prevented and didn't. Infrequently I get a chance to continue my investigation and I continue to come up with good stuff while others scream suppression. The fact is I have such heavy documentation I've decided to do a WHITEWASH III: THE ARCHIVE. It will be a book like no other: without text. The stuff is that shocking I plan to reproduce everything in facsimile. No type. The differing page proportions will leave a little bottom-page space in enough cases for the little commentary required. Right now the problem is dough. If I can get not the cash but the underwriting for the printer I'll do it as soon as WHITEWASH II is printed, and have a coupon in it. I am reasonably confident it will go. My reluctance comes from the fact that we still have no cash, still haven't paid the printer, and should something happen I do not want to leave a saddled wife. I've made one inquiry about foundation help. III will have an inherent subplot. It will be the documents on which II is based, but it will tell a government-agency story like nothing else has - in their own words and over the right signatures. Also, pictures.

This is not to be mysterious. I hope it will not be too long before there is a copy in the mail to you. Meanwhile, I've got copies scattered around.

Volk and Welt got their copy and I've had an acknowledgement to which I replied by giving them the name and address of my British agent. Thanks. "eltrinelli is doing the book in Italy, where it and I have attracted much attention and good notices. UPI filmed me today for Italian TV's anniversary program, and I gave them a little bonus of a filmed news story that the press has missed. I'm rather surprised that the Czech agency, after telling me in February how extraordinarily important a book WHITEWASH is has failed to place it....The climate here is changing rapidly. The new direction I expect things to take is to insist on Oswald but suggest he could have had an accomplice. This is the Epstein-Popkin finkery. It will not work. We are past that point. Meanwhile, I always find the time to tell those literary and judicial whores what they are, challenge them to debate on their terms and in their media, and always either silence or cowardly refusals. At least I give them a few bad minutes looking inside themselves.

I've done 10,000 words in two pieces on the so-called "new evidence" that is neither with no immediate prospect of publication. My British agent has both. Salisbury read the first "with interest" but the NYT magazine returned it today with the explanation that having done their story (clobbering me) a couple of months ago they had exhausted the possibilities. The "new evidence" and the return of the pix and X-rays are both acts of desperation calculated to perpetuate suppression. I've got a list of the "evidence" and have been reading it on radio, by phone. It is a real can of worms, like Marina's sewing basket (with medal, religious and coin, Mexican and nailfile), her trading-stamp book, recipes, child-care clippings, embroidery patterns, personal jewelry; dozens of exhibits of empty envelopes; a no admittance sign; Two Ian Flemings, two H.G. Wells and one Orwell; a Sears catalogue - need I continue? 20 columns of small

type of such trash.

The story with the pictures and Xrays, whose importance as evidence is being deliberately exaggerated (to quote a certain Maryland farmer, "All they can do is prove one less lie was told"), is much the same, with new and impermissible questions of fact and authenticity now existing. Unlike the now-wealthy flack, I've been working quietly, to accomplish something. I've made private but formal demand for access to this evidence despite the restrictions placed upon it. If and when I'm refused, the first time I'll say something publicly is when I can get a lawyer to take the case without fee (as I think I can) and contest the entire action. That the government has done is to accept its own property back under conditions it allowed to be imposed under a law for Presidential papers that allows it. Thus restrictions not otherwise possible have been placed on property that could never have left the government's possession legally. What a frightful mess. Also, bad arithmetic.

I've charged Hoover with improper surreptions privately, in May, specifying just what he suppressed without any legal or administrative authority. I quote this in the new writing. Perhaps this made the Times unhappy. If I cannot get it published in any kind of a mass-circulation journal I'll use in when I'm promoting the new book.

It should be very publishable in Europe if my agent does anything. He has worked hard for very little and may be concerned with making a living....I'd like to get a British publisher to reproduce from my negatives or a decent distributor to handle the coming book that I'll be publisher of.

After the new book is out I'll do a third long piece specifying the ignored or rejected evidence, including a long list of pictures. I've been quietly accumulating such evidence. I have some in II.

In the new book I put Lane and Epstein and their reactionary doctrines in perspective, establish their incompetence, tear LOCK apart before the appearance of their Manchester serialization (it should ruin Manchester), sent them a copy of what I was going to say in advance, belabor the US News and its 16-page compendium of Specter's lies, call him a liar, say if untrue it is actionable, and dare him to sue. I'm impartial. When Lane chickened out on a debate with Liebelar and Liebelar howled because Lane didn't file a promised slander suit, I asked Liebelar to sue me. He will not even mention my name! I expect to meet him on a coming TV show, about which I'd like you to say nothing, to be taped in New York in a couple of weeks. I'll talk to him about his record (worse than Specter's) and nothing else. If he isn't there I expect to be in California the middle of next month and I'll have some lecture, radio and TV audiences. I will keep this on the record and not let him, as Lane does, wander afield. The record is too good. With any luck you'll smell frying fat by the time you return.

So, to a degree, I've brought you up to date. The Metromedia TV show, despite rough editing that was hard on me, has had a real impact. It has already been sold to 13 other stations. There has been no answer, and save to Lane there cannot be. When I have the book I'll mail it.

Sincerely,